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Claim Amendments:

A listing of the claims, including Claims 1-8 as cancelled herein, and Claims 9-28 as newly added, is set forth below.

1-8. Cancelled.

9. (New) A process for the preparation of an aqueous suspension of fluid mineral matter from a concentrated cake comprising performing two separate stages of filtration, wherein in the first filtration stage, a pre-layer of mineral matter is formed on a filtration membrane in the absence of a dispersant agent, and in the second filtration stage, which is operated continuous to the first, the pre-layer is treated with a second aqueous suspension containing a dispersant agent to obtain a filtrate and a concentrated cake, wherein an aqueous suspension of fluid mineral matter is obtained from the concentrated cake.

10. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the second aqueous suspension contains the mineral matter and the dispersant agent.

11. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the second aqueous suspension contains the dispersant agent but not the mineral matter.

12. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the dispersant agent used in the second filtration stage is present between 0.01% and 10% by dry weight of dispersant relative to the dry weight of mineral matter to be filtered.

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13. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the dispersant agent used in the second filtration stage is present between 0.1% and 2% by dry weight of dispersant relative to the dry weight of mineral matter to be filtered.

14. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the quantity of dispersant agent present in the filtrate is controlled and limited by a continuous measurement of the electrical conductivity of the filtrate.

15. (New) The process of Claim 14, wherein the second filtration stage is stopped as soon as the electrical conductivity of the filtrate increases.

16. (New) The process of Claim 15, wherein the electrical conductivity is measured using an HI 8820N conductivity meter from Hanna Instruments (Portugal).

17. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the dispersant agent is sodium polyacrylate.

18. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the concentrated cake is subjected to compression.

19. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the concentrated cake is subjected to shearing.

20. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is natural calcium carbonate, chalk, calcite, marble, synthetic calcium carbonate, precipitated calcium carbonate, mixed carbonates of magnesium and calcium, dolomite, magnesium carbonate, zinc carbonate, lime, magnesia, barium sulphate, barita, calcium sulphate,

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silica, magnesio-silicate, talc, wollastonite, clay, alumino-silicate, kaolin, mica, metal or alkaline-earth oxides or hydroxides, magnesium hydroxide, iron oxide, zinc oxide, titanium oxide, titanium dioxide, or any mixtures thereof.

21. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is natural calcium carbonate, precipitated calcium carbonate, titanium dioxide, kaolin, aluminium hydroxide, clay or any mixtures thereof.

22. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is natural calcium carbonate.

23. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is precipitated calcium carbonate.

24. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is titanium dioxide.

25. (New) The process of Claim 24, wherein the titanium dioxide is in its anatase or rutile form.

26. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is kaolin.

27. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is aluminium hydroxide.

28. (New) The process of Claim 9, wherein the mineral matter is clay.